

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe*

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## Interstate Commerce Barriers Examined

TNEC Turns Attention to Restrictions to Free Flow of Trade Among States

### MANY CONTROLS ADOPTED

Methods Studied of Reopening Channels of Commerce Throughout Entire Nation

When the Founding Fathers met in Philadelphia in 1787 to "revise" the Articles of Confederation, their principal purpose was to establish a government that would be sufficiently strong to handle the many problems confronting the new nation. It had been recognized that the Articles of Confederation did not bestow sufficient authority upon the central government. The Confederation was little more than a league of 13 independent and sovereign nations, each jealous of the others and all resentful of a strong central government. Two of the principal weaknesses of the Confederation (discussed on page 6 of this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER) were its lack of power to tax and to regulate commerce.

#### Under the Constitution

It was in order to remove these weaknesses that the federal Constitution included a provision transferring to the central government the power to regulate commerce "with foreign nations, and among the several states." The Constitution specifically forbade the states to erect tariff barriers around its borders, except under special circumstances: "No state shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws; and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress."

It has generally been agreed that one of the principal causes of the rapid growth and the economic progress of the United States has been the existence of a vast free-trade area including the entire nation. The fact that goods could flow freely from one state to another, without the tariffs and other restrictions which have always handicapped commerce in Europe, has made it possible for industries to grow up, for farmers to find vast markets, and in general, for the country to prosper.

During the last few years, especially since the beginning of the depression, state after state has erected trade barriers against the products of other states so that it is now a question whether one can accurately refer to the United States as a vast free-trade area. While these restrictions are not called tariffs, they serve the same purpose. So serious has the problem become that it is national in scope and is commanding more and more attention throughout the nation. In an attempt to get at the magnitude of the problem, the Temporary National Economic Committee last month turned its attention to restrictions to interstate commerce.

It is estimated that there are some 2,000 barriers standing in the way of the free flow of goods and services from one state to another. Practically every state has some sort of restriction upon the goods of other states. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace accurately summarized the situation some time ago in the following words:

"Today, we cannot say that we have free  
(Concluded on page 8)



## Broader Horizons

BY WALTER E. MYER

I was very favorably impressed by the personality of a high school girl with whom I talked recently. She is 15 years old and in the first year of senior high school. She is good looking and her manner is especially pleasing. There is a sparkle in her eye, an air of jollity about her that betokens a happy disposition and a companionable spirit. I can imagine her as one of the gayest and most popular of her social group. I doubt if many of her friends have more fun than she has. But one soon becomes aware upon talking with her that she does not depend for enjoyment wholly upon the pleasures of the moment. She can engage in light chatter as well as anyone, but she doesn't do it all the time. She looks beyond the immediate environment. She has larger interests, and her conduct is in part influenced by them. In the course of the conversation I learned that she has given thought to her future vocation. She plans to be a foreign correspondent, and she is already at work at the job of preparing herself for that vocation. She studies French with motive and purpose. She intends later to study Spanish. She reads a great deal about foreign political, economic, and diplomatic problems. Her conversation reflects an interest in such affairs. Her interest in a broad range of problems outside her environment and her knowledge of these problems lend distinction to her conversation and give her a degree of poise not possessed by many young girls.

This girl may or may not become a foreign correspondent. Her interests may be deflected into other channels. But whatever course she may pursue in later years, her foundations will have been strengthened, her interests broadened, her personality enriched by the work she is now doing; by the habits of reading, reflection, and discussion she is now developing; by the breadth of vision which accompanies her present enthusiasms. Her chance of living happily and usefully is greatly increased by the breadth of her present interests and by the fact that she has learned to link her ambitions to distant goals.

It would be regrettable if any boy or girl should become prematurely serious. Let there be laughter in youth, and delight in the so-called trivialities of the everyday social life. But let there also be inspiration from above and beyond the narrow limits of one's social group. The day's enjoyments will be all the sharper and brighter if they are kept in harmony with far-flung ambition and enduring purpose.

## Hungary Faces An Uncertain Future

Hungarians Become Uneasy Over Russo-German Activity in Southeastern Europe

### BID FOR ITALIAN SUPPORT

May Drop Demands for Territories Lost in World War in Return for Security Guarantee

Since both in area and in population Hungary is somewhat smaller than the state of New York, it cannot be called a large country. Yet it has been playing an important part in Europe's affairs during the last half year. Germans, on political and trade missions, have been traveling in large numbers to Budapest, the Hungarian capital, and back again. Diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union have been restored after a long lapse. Italian and Hungarian statesmen have been shuttling rapidly back and forth between Budapest and Rome. Budapest has replaced Vienna, Prague, and Warsaw as a clearing point for the news and rumors from central and eastern Europe. When Hungary's premier, Count Paul Teleki, or her foreign minister, Count Stephen Csaky, issues a statement concerning international affairs, it is studied with care in Paris, London, and Madrid, and even as far away as Washington, Wall Street, and Tokyo. At least one session of the Balkan Entente Conference this year, which includes Yugoslavia, Rumania, Turkey, and Greece, was devoted to a discussion of Hungarian policy. All in all, it might appear that the great and small powers of the world have been devoting more attention to Hungary than her size justifies. Why?

#### Geographical Position

In searching for the answer to this question it should be noted, first of all, that Hungary occupies a very important geographical position in eastern Europe. She is a connecting link between central Europe and the Balkans. Her people are spread over the flat, fertile area, half enclosed by mountains, known as the Pannonian Plain, or the Middle Danube Basin, which stretches away on both sides of the Danube about halfway between its source and its delta. Products of the Danube Valley, moving upstream or down, pass through Budapest. The railroads of the region converge upon Budapest. When Germany looks at Rumania with an eye to expanding her influence, or when Italy casts anxious eyes toward Russia, the lines of vision cross in Hungary. Thus Hungary, although a small state, resembles the hub of a wheel where spokes radiating in all directions meet in a common center.

History, as well as geography, has played an important role in shaping Hungarian policies. More than a thousand years ago some 25,000 horsemen appeared in eastern Europe, traveling west from some remote region in Asia. The Romans called them "Huns," hence the word Hungary, but these people had little in common with Slavs or Germans. They called themselves Magyars, spoke (and speak today) a language akin only to those of the Finns and Mongols, and rode small, wiry horses. Spreading out over the Middle Danube Basin, the Magyars developed slowly into a nation. They raised horses, cattle, pigs, wheat, and maize. They adopted Christianity, and built the beautiful twin cities of Buda and Pest on opposite banks of the Danube. They proved to be good musicians, excellent horsemen, and tough fighters.

(Concluded on page 3)



(Drawings by Graham Peck from "Through China's Wall")

## - Straight Thinking -

### XXVIII. Meaningless Figures

FIGURES are often used in such a way that they mean little or nothing. Sometimes those who quote figures do it with the intention of impressing their hearers with the big numbers. They do it for the purpose of deceiving. In other cases, the ones who quote the figures are as ignorant of their real meaning as the hearers or readers are. Figures are sometimes used as a substitute for meaningful facts.

For an example, let us go to the field of conservation. People who write about the wasting of the soil frequently quote figures without explanations of meaning. They will say that farm land to the amount of 50,000,000 acres has already been ruined through soil erosion. That is a fact, but the figures themselves mean nothing. To see how serious the wastage is, we must know how much cropland there is in the nation, and how large a slice of it an area of 50,000,000 acres is.

Or we read that a dust storm swept 100,000,000 tons of topsoil from the plains of the Middle West. Well, how many tons were there before the wind, and how many were left? How great a proportion of the total was lost?

Other illustrations are plentiful. We were told recently that during the first half year of the war Great Britain lost about 700,000 tons of shipping. That figure standing alone is meaningless. What proportion of the total was lost? That is the significant question. It helps us somewhat to know that the British have ships amounting to a total tonnage of about 20,000,000 tons. But how fast are they building? Are they building ships as fast as the Germans sink them? These are facts we must know before the 700,000 figure means much.

Then we read a great deal about the cost of education. Impressive figures are presented to show how much it has increased during the last 50 years. The figures are very large and are often published with the purpose of forcing a reduction of expenses for the schools.

But other figures are needed. Where is the money going? How many young people

were getting a high school education 50 years ago and how many are getting it today? How much has increased schooling of millions of men and women increased the national income?

Nearly all of us are guilty sometimes of using figures to deceive. Advocates of all parties and of all causes resort to the device. Those who favor high tariff often quote strings of figures showing the quantity of foreign goods being imported into the country. If one merely looks at the figures, he may have the impression that America is being flooded with foreign goods. But if he compares the imports with the total quantity of goods being manufactured in this country, he may find that the imports are unimportant. He may, in certain cases, of course, find the opposite to be true. The point is that an effort should be made to see what the figures actually mean.

When a lot of figures are hurled at you, stop and inquire what they really mean. Ask, furthermore, whether additional figures may be necessary in order to round out the picture.

### What the Magazines Say

FERDINAND LUNDBERG, in the April issue of *Harpers*, surveys a relatively new type of journalism, the so-called newsletter. Consisting of a few printed or mimeographed sheets, mailed privately to subscribers, the newsletter purports to disclose news that presumably does not appear in the regular press, interpretations formulated by experts, and, occasionally, forecasts of future trends. The first newsletter appeared in 1918, published by the Whaley-Eaton Service, and it is still one of the outstanding in the field. Its circulation, however, does not approach that of the Kiplinger Washington Letter, which is said to have 30 to 40 thousand subscribers. In recent years, as government controls of industry have increased, hundreds of newsletter services have blossomed forth. Whether the newsletter does in fact provide its subscribers with information not available in the normal news channels is debatable. But Mr. Lundberg points out that the newsletters do have this "outstanding mark of difference from a newspaper: they publish only what their editors, after careful analysis, believe true, highly probable, and worth knowing. . . . A newspaper cannot ignore a full-dress presidential address, but a newsletter may say, 'The President's talk is discounted here as political window dressing in an election year. Pay no attention to it.' This saves argument, much space, and may give a more accurate perspective."

\* \* \*

With what feelings does the Middle West regard events abroad? Naturally, in so vast a region, there are varying attitudes influenced by a host of factors. But by and large, W. W. Waymack points out in the current number of *Foreign Affairs*, the views of the Middle West lend themselves to certain generalizations that find support also in the polls of public opinion. First of all, Mr. Waymack asserts, the Middle West is not so peculiarly isolationist as it is generally assumed to be. Among leaders in major groups, including the farm, there is increasing realization that the problems

## Delightful Picture of Chinese Life Given by Graham Peck in New Book

THE harvest of books on the Far East has been more than bountiful since the start of the Chinese war. Most of them have been written by way of interpretation and have traced the political and economic movements involved in that conflict. Of a wholly different character is Graham Peck's "Through China's Walls" (Boston: Houghton Mifflin \$3.50). In these highly literate and engrossing pages, political discussion is largely incidental and for the most part remains well in the background. Mr. Peck, having spent almost two years in China, endeavors rather to give his readers something of that country's flavor. His achievement must be set down as considerable, for in page after page you have the distinct sensation of being witness to the incidents he narrates.

Not content with whiling away his time in the large urban centers, the author traveled by caravan far into the interior. In the Gobi Desert he lived for weeks with a family of Mongols, as the guest of a chieftain who was once a bandit of repute but had settled down to conventional dote. This family lived in yurts, a type of home, incidentally, that does not signify poverty, as Occidentals often think, but rather is admirably suited to the region. Constructed of felt, horsehair ropes, and a few slim poles, the squat ground-hugging yurt is the only shape that can survive the Gobi winds without complicated anchorage.

The interior of the yurt is far from drab. The walls are latticed and on the ground are white mats quilted in geometrical design. The yurt contains little furniture as that term is understood in the West. Near one of the walls are stacked a few red lacquer chests with heavy brass locks. Another of the walls contains racks that hold bowls of milk, cream, and cheese. Standing in another corner of the room is the family shrine, a chest stocked with little Buddhas, incense, votive offerings of stale meat. Usually in the center of the yurt, its smoke spiraling to the skylight above, is the family "stove," a wrought-iron grate, where the meals are prepared and around which family and guests assemble for an evening chat.

"The routine of Mongol life," Mr. Peck asserts, "was pleasant if monotonous. The family lived entirely from its herds. . . .

The first chore of the day, performed at sunrise, was the milking of the cows. After a scanty breakfast of Mongol tea and millet seed had been consumed, the camels and cattle were watered and sent off to pasture. Then the women cleaned out the yurts and poured fresh milk into the pans. Beyond this there was very little to do. The women spent their day mending clothes or household goods in a desultory way, or else they simply spent it in talk. The men spent their day repairing harness or tools, doctoring animals, or else they simply spent it in talk. . . . At about five o'clock, when the sunlight was slanting and yellow, the herds returned. Up over the flat hills would come the camels, the cows, the sheep, the goats. It was rather like the millennium as these varied herds took their turns at the well and flocked together for the night. The calves were carefully tethered close to the yurts as a protection against wolves, and the cows assembled near them. The sheep and goats were driven into a brushwood pen while the camels grouped themselves aloofly in a circle and sank grunting to the ground. Last of all the cows were milked again and except for the preparation and consumption of the evening meal this was all the day's work."

After months spent in the interior, months in which he also had the opportunity to watch strange religious festivals and to explore the ravine-clinging



lamaseries of Buddhist monks, the sight of Shanghai struck Mr. Peck as fantastic. Here was a metropolis, a jungle of factories and skyscrapers springing up out of a swamp on the southeastern rim of Asia. "But," in his words, "of course, nowhere else in the world could have existed such a city, with its Oriental river front of crowded wharves overshadowed by office buildings and battleships; its race track ringed about by skyscrapers; its multigenerous cabarets and dance halls, varying from glossy pavilions upholstered with plush, mirrors, photo-murals to tiny . . . dance floors. Nowhere else could have gathered this swarming population of Chinese, Japanese, Russians, Portuguese, Germans, North and South Americans, English, French, Turks, and Hindus. Nowhere else could have lived these pullulating hordes of the doomed Chinese suburbs, or the unlikely denizens of the International Settlement, among whom were the Chinese politicians living on graft from distant provinces who could be seen gorging themselves on French pastry at the big hotels; the Chinese students who assiduously chattered American slang in the lobbies of the super-cinemas; the tiny Chinese beggar children who stood on street corners cheerfully whining in English: No-mama-no-papa-no chow."



ger to our nation. Sympathy for China in the Middle West is widespread but there is a general disinterest in the Far East.

\* \* \*

In the April *Asia*, Anup Singh writes of the new president of the India National Congress, Maulana Azad. He was born in Mecca in 1888 and was educated at the Al Azhar University in Cairo. He is a journalist and scholar of note. Recently he completed a three-volume commentary on the Koran, the Moslem bible, that has been acclaimed for its eloquence and scholarship. Tall, bearded, and handsome, he is one of the few Indian leaders untouched by Occidental influences. But his election to the leadership of the Congress is of immense strategic importance because he is a Mohammedan and may thus bring his influence to bear to heal the rifts that divide the Hindu and Moslem populations of India.

This brief excerpt from his account of Shanghai is typical of the vivid, tumbling style which Mr. Peck employs throughout his book. There are lively descriptions of journeys down Chinese rivers in sampans, tales of escape from advancing Japanese, analyses of the character of the people.

Included in the volume are scores of choice drawings, for the author is a professional artist. These sketches supplement the text and help to give the reader a precise mind picture of the places visited by Mr. Peck and of the persons encountered.

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PLOWING WITH OX TEAMS ON A LARGE HUNGARIAN ESTATE

GALLOWAY

## Hungary's Fate Is Precarious

(Concluded from page 1, column 4)

Again and again they fought Turks, Slavs, and Germans in defense of their lands, and their ups and downs were many and violent. The Magyars reached the peak of their power in modern times when, from 1867 to 1919, they shared with Austria economic and political domination of southeastern Europe.

### Roots of Policy

The roots of recent Hungarian policy extend back for 20 years to the collapse of the Habsburg Austro-Hungarian Empire, or the Dual Monarchy, as it was called, in the World War. The victorious Allies meted out a stern punishment to the Hungarians. It was incorporated in the Treaty of Trianon, signed in June 1920, and its terms profoundly shocked all Hungary. Huge slices of territory were parceled out to Hungary's neighbors. To Rumania went the provinces of Transylvania and Crisana. Voivodina, a wedge-shaped territory, was given to newly created Yugoslavia; while other large pieces were handed over to Czechoslovakia, another new state. Hungary shrank to a mere fraction of her former size. The Hungarians lost more than one-half of their population, horses, factories, and wheat lands; more than two-thirds of their territory and vineyards; more than three-fourths of their forests, and virtually all their copper, salt, mercury, gold, and silver resources. Hungary also lost her king, her outlet to the Adriatic Sea, and her economic self-sufficiency.

From 1920 almost down to the present, Hungarian national policy had only one aim—to rectify the shame of the Treaty of Trianon by retrieving the lost territories and the three million Magyars living in them. The entire nation, down to the lowliest herdsmen, grieved for Hungary's losses. The ancient Hungarian crown of St. Stephen (Hungary's first king) sat on an empty throne, but the Magyars continued to consider themselves a kingdom, and appointed a regent, Admiral Nicholas Horthy, to protect the throne. Outside the royal palace at Budapest the national flags hung at half-mast in mourning. Magyars buttonholed foreign visitors in the streets of Budapest and issued scores of books and leaflets demanding a revision of Trianon. That there might be another side to the question, they would not admit. That more than half of the population of the lost territories was not Magyar at all, but divided among Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Serbs, and Rumanians (none of whom wished to revert to Hungarian rule) did not swerve them. Down almost to the last man, woman, and child, Hungary adhered steadfastly to this one aim—the revision of Trianon. But being a small, weak state, Hungary could do nothing but wait, agitate, and hope.

When Adolf Hitler began to flout the

power of Britain and France and to remake the map of Europe, Hungary took hope. The Magyars, at first, saw in Hitler a champion of their own cause. He wanted a revision of the Versailles Treaty, while they wanted a revision of Trianon. Hitler was succeeding, so could they, the Magyars. Thus the Hungarians fell quite naturally behind the lead of Hitler and Mussolini. They joined with Germany, Italy, and Japan in the famous but now defunct Anti-Comintern Pact, which was aimed against Russia. The Hungarian government concluded an important trade pact with Germany, and followed Germany's lead up to a point in adopting anti-Semitic legislation.

Hungary's first material gains from this association came when Hitler began to partition Czechoslovakia, after the agreement with England and France at Munich, in the early fall of 1938.

At length, when Hitler prepared to partition Czechoslovakia, with the reluctant acquiescence of England and France, the Magyars were jubilant, believing the time had arrived for treaty revision in earnest. When Hitler had finished cutting up Czechoslovakia, however, the Hungarians were in an entirely different frame of mind. They faced a new situation. They had expected and wanted to be given the province of Slovakia. Instead, Hitler gave them only the narrow, barren stretch of mountain country comprising the eastern tip of Czechoslovakia known as Ruthenia, or the Carpatho-Ukraine. The Hungarians received a few strips of Slovakia, but the main body of that province was severed from Bohemia and established as a semi-autonomous state under German control.

The Germans were not long in letting Hungary know that she was expected to pay a price for the lands she had received. Hitler found Hungary could be useful to him. When he was having trouble negotiating a trade treaty with Yugoslavia or Rumania, for example, he could use Hungary's territorial demands as a wedge to pry out further concessions. If the Rumanians proved reluctant, Nazi agents got busy, and in a short time Hungarian newspapers would be clamoring for a return of Transylvania. At the same time, if Hungary should prove reluctant, border incidents would flare up between Slovakia and Hungary.

### A Dangerous Position

Many thoughtful Hungarians sensed very shortly after Munich that they were being placed in a dangerous position. Instead of receiving German help in return for diplomatic support, Hungary was being used as a German weapon. Foreign newspapers began to gibe at Hungary, comparing her to a jackal feasting on the lion's kill. This criticism was deeply resented in Hungary. It hurt Magyar pride. It created consternation and uncertainty in Budapest and even in country districts. Some Magyars began to suspect that Germany might even have designs on Hungary, or that she might force a war upon Rumania and send

her troops across Hungary to do so. Several times the German government asked permission to do this, if it should become necessary. But Admiral Horthy and Premier Teleki refused, apparently in the belief that German troops, once in Hungary, might never leave. When Germany and Russia overwhelmed Poland, the danger of Hungary's position became all the clearer. Germany was crowding against Hungary's western borders, while Russia had established a common frontier with Hungary in the northeast.

Today it is generally admitted in Hungary that attempts to secure treaty revision have led Hungary into difficult paths. The proximity and pressure of Germany and Russia have not only changed Hungary's international position, however, but they have affected internal affairs as well. Hungary is not an absolute dictatorship, nor is it a democracy. Besides the regent, who substitutes temporarily for a king, the country is governed by a cabinet and a parliament. But only 2,000,000 people in Hungary are qualified to vote, and even this does not give the whole picture, because through a system of interlocking economic control, the nation and its parliament are dominated by a small group of powerful landowners.

### Control of Wealth

More than a third of the cultivable land in Hungary is owned by about a thousand families, chief among which are the Karolyis, the Esterhazys, the Hunyadis, and the Andrassys, all of whom have long been famous in Hungarian history. The nearest thing to a middle class is made up of about a quarter of a million people who own 150 acres of land or less apiece, plus a small class of artisans and professional people. The remainder of Hungary's population of more than 10,000,000 either own no land at all, or too little for adequate support of themselves and families. While a small portion of the population lives in elegant town houses or apartments in Budapest, or in rambling country manors, the large majority live in dire poverty under a system which is almost feudal.

The landowning families which dominate the Hungarian government have good reasons for not liking the proximity of Germany and Russia, and for wishing to prevent a spread of German or Russian influence. Both Russian Communism, and more recently German Nazism, have undermined or destroyed the concept of landownership by a wealthy and titled few. In Russia, the wealthy and middle classes have long since vanished, while in Germany they are now in the process of being wiped out. For

their own protection the Hungarians have been forced to resume diplomatic relations with Russia, and to establish closer trade relations with Germany, but they do not like the idea. If Russian or German influence should spread among the Magyars, the same thing might happen in Hungary. The Hungarian Nazi party, which draws its support from a German minority of 600,000 people, and financial contributions from the German government, has already made a number of effective inroads in Hungary, electing more than 50 deputies to Parliament, and forcing the government to adopt land reform measures—dividing a few of the larger estates among peasants and raising the very low agricultural wages—simply to keep the poorer Magyars from turning to the Nazis.

### Turns to Italy

Looking anxiously around to find some means of offsetting the combined influence of Germany and Russia, the Hungarian government has now turned to Italy as its chief hope. Both Premier Teleki and Foreign Minister Csaky have been to Rome in search of Italian guarantees of Hungarian integrity. Whether these guarantees have actually been made is a mystery. But the Hungarians have been greeted cordially in Rome, because Italy desires above all to confine the present European war to the western front. In order to do this, there must be an end to petty territorial disputes among the Danube countries, in the Italian view. Since Hungary is the chief "revisionist" state, an agreement with Hungary might give the Italians the opportunity they have been seeking. When Hungarian statesmen arrived in Rome, therefore, the issue was put to them in this fashion: Was Hungary sincere enough in her desire for peace to postpone her demands on Rumania and Yugoslavia? Would Hungary drop these demands for Italian support?

What Hungary's answer is, remains uncertain, but all indications are that the Magyars now intend to put peace above pride, and security above desires for treaty revision. If this is true, it may mean a better day for the Magyars. The danger of a German attack on Rumania through Hungary, or of an Allied drive from the southeast, or perhaps a Russian move into the Balkans still remains, of course, but it is still believed possible that the Danube states may be left undisturbed if Italy threatens to attack any power making a move in the direction of these states.

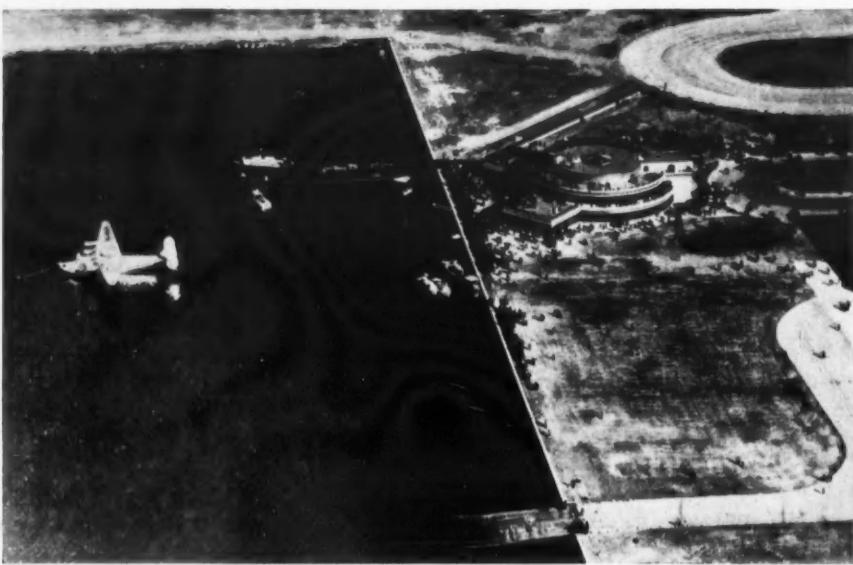
**REFERENCES:** (a) Hungary Sits It Out, by F. Gervasi, *Collier's*, March 16, 1940, p. 21. (b) Nazi Fissure in Hungary, by J. Dupont, *Living Age*, February 1940, pp. 552-553. (c) Hungarian Goose-Step, by J. H. Smyth, *Current History*, September 1939.

**PRONUNCIATIONS:** Carpatho-Ukraine (kar-pay'thoe you'krane), Chiang Kai-shek (jee'ong' ki' shek'), Chungking (choong'-king'), Crisana (kree-shah'nah), Csaky (chah'kee), Horthy (hor'tee), Magyar (mag'-yahr), Sun Yat-sen (soon' yaht'-sen'), Teleki (teh'leb-kee'), Trianon (tree-ah-noan'), Vladivostok (vlah-di-vos-tok'), Voivodina (voy-vee-dee'nah), Wang Ching-wei (wahng' ching'-way').



HUNGARIANS

EUROPEAN



THE WORLD'S LARGEST SEAPLANE BASIN IS COMPLETED

A \$7,500,000 landing basin for flying boats has been completed at La Guardia Field, New York. The basin was dedicated on March 31. As a feature of the ceremonies the Atlantic Clipper took off from the basin for Europe.

## DOMESTIC

### Welles Returns

When Sumner Welles returned to the nation's capital recently, he maintained the same grim silence which he had observed throughout his 14,000-mile trip to Europe. By steamer, train, and plane, the undersecretary of state had traveled about 350 miles a day since February 16 to visit kings, prime ministers, and other government chiefs of the major European countries.

Rumors by the score flooded the European press, and were wired to the American newspapers, as Welles visited with the King of Italy, the Pope, Mussolini, Hitler, Chamberlain, Daladier, Reynaud, the King of England, and many other officials. Although each government was in a position to reveal the nature of its contacts with Welles—and some did permit "reliable government sources" to publish their views on the war and on peace—only Welles himself held the key to the entire story of European affairs which he was able to obtain for President Roosevelt.

So the speculations which surround his trip have no sure foundation, for the reports which he put on paper were tightly locked in a bag that the undersecretary of state would trust no one to carry. With Secretary of State Hull, he took the story of his trip to the White House, where the two men conferred for an hour and a half with the President.

After the conference, the President told reporters that Mr. Welles had made valuable contacts on the trip and had gathered much worthwhile information, which would be held in strictest confidence. The President added that Welles had not committed the United States to any course of action in Europe, and had not received any peace proposals.

### Meanwhile

Within 24 hours after Welles' report to the President, the German government published a series of Polish "documents" to prove that the American government, through its ambassadors, had played a leading part "in bringing about the present war." The timing of the Nazi accusation, most observers agreed, was arranged to coincide with the end of Welles' mission.

The documents, according to the Nazi version, were seized from the archives of the Polish Foreign Office in Warsaw about six months ago. Why the papers were not published sooner was not explained. At any rate, the Germans printed "quotations" from "statements" by President Roosevelt; Joseph P. Kennedy, American ambassador to Britain; William C. Bullitt, ambassador to France; and various other men, including several Polish ambassadors. If the statements are accepted as true, they show that the American government encouraged the Allies to go to war.

There was practically a unanimous refusal in this country to accept the documents as valid. Germany no longer worries about maintaining more than a pretense of friendly relations with the United States. It is argued

that the Nazis are appealing to isolationist sentiment in this country in the hope of undermining whatever pro-Ally sympathy exists here. A suspicion in the minds of the American people that our government is leading us to war is what the Germans are trying to arouse, it is concluded. Britain and France, of course, have sought to attach the blame for the war on Germany by publishing the Allied versions of the controversy, and their efforts, too, are generally suspect in the minds of objective observers.

### Cabinet Plans

As the political season advances, most of the cabinet members are either prospective candidates themselves or advocates of a third term for President Roosevelt. A few, of course, have remained silent about their hopes for 1940.

At the head of the list stands Secretary of State Hull. Although he is frequently mentioned as a possible choice for the Democratic party's presidential nomination, he has consistently denied that he has any plans for the future. Busy with the administration of the nation's foreign affairs, he has kept quiet on political questions.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, Secretary of War Woodring, Secretary of Commerce Hopkins, and Secretary of Labor Perkins have also refrained, for the most part, from entering the political discussions. No one of them is a prospective candidate for any office. Mentioned at one time as a presidential possibility, Hopkins has suffered from an extended illness which has kept him from his regular duties a great deal, as well as from any active participation in the political arena. Whether all or several of these secretaries want a third term for Mr. Roosevelt, they have not been in the forefront of a draft-Roosevelt movement.

Secretary of the Interior Ickes and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, of course, are insistent that Roosevelt must run again. They



THE TRAVELER REPORTS  
Sumner Welles, accompanied by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, arrives at the White House to report to President Roosevelt about his trip to Europe.

# The Week at Home

## What the People of the World

have repeatedly taken this stand, and Ickes is identified as the leader of a small group of New Dealers who are devising the strategy for a third-term movement. Attorney General Jackson is a favorite among these officials. Jackson would be happy if a third term could be brought about, and others regard him favorably as a candidate in his own right. Secretary of the Navy Edison is a candidate for the Democratic nomination as governor of New Jersey. And Postmaster General Farley, of course, is himself a candidate for the presidency.

leather, wool for clothing, hogs' bristles for brushes, animals' bones for fertilizer, and wood. Cotton, of course, is a major exception, although surplus quantities of it may be used someday for new products.

And the day may not be far off when other farm products will become the raw materials for factories. Already the famed Negro scientist, George Washington Carver, has found dozens of industrial uses for the peanut. Other chemists are discovering ways to manufacture plastics, oils, textiles, paper, paints, and even road-building materials from farm products.

Recently a number of these men gathered for a meeting of the National Farm Chemurgic Conference in Chicago. Reporting the ways in which chemistry has been put to work for the farmer, they told, for example, about the notable work which has been done with the soybean. One scientist reported that he has made and tested 200 paints and varnishes from soybean oil. And many automobiles now have dashboards, steering wheels, and similar parts made from soybean plastics. The work which has been accomplished with this plant alone is encouraging the chemurgists to

### Illness Toll

During the past winter months, about six million persons were sick every day—too ill to work, to attend school, or to carry on other activities. From the same survey which showed this loss of time, the United States Public Health Service also discovered that about 18 per cent of the nation's population, or a total of 23,000,000 people, are sick each day, but that most of them are able to continue their duties.

DOING BUSINESS UNDER DIFFICULTIES  
FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

look for industrial uses which will require wheat, corn, milk, and cotton.

### Chain Stores

Since the early 1930's, a constant fight has been waged between chain store managements and retail store associations. The controversies always end in state legislatures or in the United States Congress, where the retail owners support bills to tax the chains, and the chains naturally fight such proposals with all their resources.

According to a recent summary, 27 states have passed chain-taxing legislation, but in seven cases the laws were either declared unconstitutional or were repealed. Representative Wright Patman of Texas has carried the fight to Congress—for several years he has been trying to put through a law which would assess special taxes against chains; hearings were held not long ago on his bill.

In general, his bill and the various state measures are designed to place graduated taxes on a chain system. A system with a small number of stores in a concentrated area generally is exempted, but as the chain grows larger and spreads over several states or over the entire nation, its tax bill mounts in proportion. The sponsors of these bills and the retail store owners frankly agree that the measures are weapons to tax the chains into smaller units or to tax them out of existence.

They contend that a chain system tends to create a monopoly; that small store owners are in no position to compete with giant, nation-wide organizations; and that consumers may pay reasonable prices now, but will suffer later as the chains grow into monopolies. Those who dislike the chain-taxing proposals say that such legislation is discriminatory in the first place; that American consumers have made great savings by purchasing food, drugs, clothing, and many other goods from chains.

### Farm to Factory

Until recent years, nearly all farm products have been sold for food. Meat, grains, vegetables, fruits, and dairy products still provide the farmers' chief income. Only a small part of their profits are realized from the sale of products which factories use—hides for

# Home and Abroad

## Doing, Saying, and Thinking

### FOREIGN

#### The Allies and Russia

Attempting to stop every possible leak in the economic blockade of Germany, the Allies have pushed the theater of blockade warfare far afield, during the last half year, into the Arctic, the South Atlantic, into neutral territorial waters, and into the Pacific Ocean off Chile. During recent weeks the blockade has been tightening on the biggest leak of all—Russia. Allied statesmen assert that Russia has been spending an average of \$10,000,000 a month in the United States on metals, minerals, and machinery needed for war materials, and destined for Germany. A good part of this trade moves across the Pacific into the Siberian port of Vladivostok, whence it is shipped by rail nearly 7,000 miles to Germany. At the same time, they assert, Soviet tankers are carrying oil from Batum across the Black Sea to Rumanian ports and thence it is trans-



ON THE WESTERN FRONT  
RAY IN KANSAS CITY STAR

shipped by rail or river to Nazi Germany.

Recently the Allied high command took steps to close these two avenues. Two Soviet freighters, one loaded with American copper, and another with assorted metals, were captured in the Far East, near Japan, by British naval vessels which, claiming they carried contraband destined for Germany, handed them over to the French navy. At the same time, the Allies have been sounding out the Turkish government on a plan to permit an Allied fleet to pass through the Dardanelles into the Black Sea to enforce the blockade against oil shipments. The Turkish government, although wary of becoming embroiled with Russia, is said to be favorably disposed to this plan.

All these developments have produced renewed tension between the Allies and Russia. This tension was heightened recently when France demanded, and secured, the recall of the Soviet ambassador to Paris on the ground that he had insulted France. It was heightened still further when Premier Molotov castigated the Allies in a speech before Communist party leaders in Moscow. Some quarters in Britain and France are demanding that diplomatic relations with Russia be broken, but officials have been impressed by the fact that Molotov stated categorically in his speech that Russia does not intend to participate in the war. Thus it is not likely that Soviet-Allied relations will take any drastic turn for the worse at the present.

#### War of Words

The German Ministry of Propaganda, which now charges the United States with having fomented the European war (see page 4), has created no end of difficulties for the Allied governments during the last six months. Its most effective device is the radio, and its most successful program is the series of nightly

broadcasts to the people of England. An anonymous Britisher with an Oxford accent, nicknamed "Lord Haw Haw," tells the English people over and over again that they are fighting for their rich capitalist-imperialists, that they cannot possibly win, that Britain's own record in India, South Africa, and Ireland has been far worse than Germany's in Poland, and adds an occasional maxim, such as "A German submarine can dive many times; a British capital ship but once." Similar programs, directed toward the French, assert that France is being bled white to fight England's war. "Britain will fight to the last Frenchman" is a favorite maxim in this series.

The Allied governments now admit this propaganda to be effective. How to combat these broadcasts is a problem. Britain has not followed Germany's lead in threatening severe punishment for any of her citizens caught listening to foreign broadcasts, and the British hesitate to "jam" German broadcasts with artificial static for fear that the Germans would retaliate by cutting off British broadcasts to neutral states. Whether measures can be taken to offset the effect of the Reich broadcasts is now the subject of a joint conference of the Allied propaganda chiefs.

#### Wang Inaugurated

Through the old streets of Nanking, which had been the capital of China once from 1368 to 1403, and again from 1929 to 1938, a curious inaugural procession recently wound its way toward the massive Yuan Building, where thousands of spectators were gathered to witness the installation of Wang Ching-wei as head of the new Central Government of China. Bands played the Chinese national anthem, flags of the Chinese Republic flew from all public buildings, while over the inaugural platform hung a huge portrait of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the founder of the Chinese Republic whose tomb lies just outside the city. When Wang, formerly premier of China under Chiang Kai-shek, arose to speak in vague pleasantries about the traditional friendship between Japan and China, the poker-faced Chinese applauded at exactly the right moments and then went home.

But there was a curious note about this inauguration. Japanese soldiers and plain-clothes men were everywhere, mingling with the crowds, while Japanese aircraft roared low over the city dropping clouds of leaflets. There were about 100 foreign newspapermen present, but no sign of any diplomats except Japanese. All other embassies and legations remained far up the river at Chungking, where there were no Japanese soldiers, and where Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek angrily denounced the Wang government as the mere tool of the Japanese army. Chiang asserted



WIDE WORLD

AVENUE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
Europeans are fond of naming—and renaming—city streets after famous people, without necessarily waiting until the individuals so honored have passed on. The French have renamed this avenue in Suresnes, near Paris, after President Roosevelt.

that Wang had turned traitor to China, and reminded his listeners that his execution had already been ordered.

How foreign governments would react to the long-promised but long-delayed inaugural of Wang remained an uneasy point of discussion. Would they ignore Chiang and come to terms with Wang, thus falling into line with Japan's new order in East Asia? The first reply, coming from the United States, was a blunt "no." As we go to press, only Japan and Manchukuo recognize the Wang government. But Wang's inauguration raises new problems in the Far East. These will be discussed in a forthcoming issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

#### Spanish Refugees

During the last months of the Spanish civil war, which ended a little more than a year ago, half a million refugees from loyalist areas in Spain streamed down through the snowy passes of the Pyrenees Mountains into France. They came in such large numbers that the French government was obliged to establish camps for them in various parts of southern France. Although some American and other foreign funds were collected to pay for the upkeep of the refugees, the French government, according to its own figures, paid \$25,000,000 toward their upkeep last year.

Today the refugee camps have dwindled considerably in size. About 345,000 have emigrated to Latin America or have gone back to Spain to begin life anew. Of the 155,000 left in France, 50,000 have been absorbed by French industry, and another 54,000 have been put to work on public work projects, earning the same pay as mobilized Frenchmen. Others are in a transition period, either leaving the country, or preparing to leave, or seeking work. Only 6,000 men still remain in the camps, but they will not be there for long

since the French government intends to close these camps within a few weeks.

#### Moslems in India

With nearly 400,000,000 people within her borders, India is almost more a continent than a country. Her people speak over 200 different languages and dialects, and live in almost all stages of civilization, from the lowest to the highest. But two outstanding groups predominate. In the vast majority are more than 285,000,000 Hindus who dominate most of the peninsula, and the powerful Congress Party (now somewhat divided over methods to be adopted to secure Indian independence from England). The second group comprises 90,000,000 Moslems who, although they are outnumbered three to one, are a compact, well-knit group, strengthened by their religious ties with the remainder of the world's some 250,000,000 Mohammedans. Quarrels between Moslems and Hindus have been frequent, and they have often been used as an argument for continuing British rule on the peninsula.

At various times, liberal Hindus and Moslems have made an effort to bring the two groups together in a solid front against imperialism. Recently, for example, the Congress Party (in which the Hindus are a majority) elected a liberal Moslem, Maulana Azad, as its president. This move was expected to weaken the strength of the All-India Moslem League, in which the more fanatical Moslems are dominant. The reaction of the Moslem League has been somewhat different from what was expected, however. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, president of the League, has now come forward with a new proposal for settling the Indian problem. He suggests that the Moslem regions of India (most of them in the north) be separated from the rest of India and given a dominion status within the British Empire. In return for this, India's Moslems would be willing to support Britain in the European war. Since the British have found in Ireland and in Palestine that partition often creates more problems than it settles, it is not likely that the offer will be considered.

#### Canada Elects

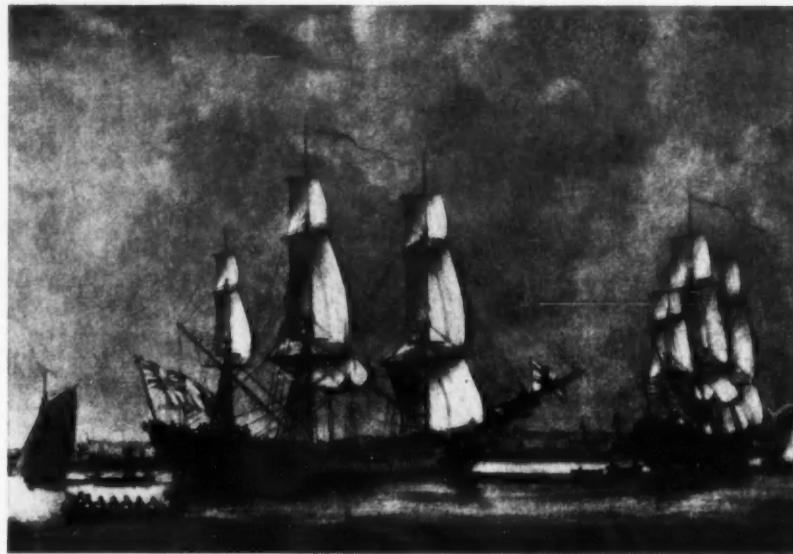
When the Canadian Parliament convened last January, the Liberal party government of Prime Minister Mackenzie King faced bitter opposition from the minority group, the Conservative party. The Conservatives had been criticizing the government's prosecution of the war which was, they said, weak, inefficient, and at cross purposes. In order to escape the charges which he knew would be made against him in Parliament, Mackenzie King dissolved Parliament and called for new elections.

Recently the electors of Canada went to the polls to register their verdict. Despite the fact that snow lay on the ground throughout most of the Dominion, they turned out in large numbers. When the ballots were counted it was found that the Liberals had been swept back into office by a landslide. Even the leader of the Conservative party, Dr. R. J. Manion, failed to win sufficient votes in his own district to return to the House of Commons as floor leader of the opposition.



ITALY RECALLS HER OWN

The first group of immigrants are given the keys to the new Italian city of Pomezia. These people were among 79 Italian families who were brought home from Yugoslavia to colonize a new city established for that purpose. The Italians, like the Germans, wish to unite as many Italians as possible under the Italian flag.



FROM A PAINTING BY JOHN CLEVELEY

Trade and commerce in the American states born of the American Revolution were seriously disrupted through lack of cooperation. Until the Federal Constitution put an end to the evil, all sorts of restrictions and discriminations prevailed to interfere with the movement of commerce among the states.

## Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

### Commerce Under the Articles of Confederation

THE erection of a network of restrictions to trade among the different states (discussed elsewhere in this issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER*) recalls the state of confusion which existed in this country during the eight years of the Articles of Confederation. It is generally recognized that the principal weakness of the Confederation was the inability of the Congress to regulate commerce and to tax. The lack of authority in these two vital fields resulted in chaos, economic stagnation, and threatened disintegration.



DAVID S. MUZZEY

Under the Articles of Confederation each state had the authority to regulate its own commerce not only with foreign nations but with the other states. As a result, there was a network of tariff barriers and the 13 states were almost as a similar group of European nations of today. The historian McMaster, in his excellent and exhaustive history of the period, gives us a detailed account of the situation existing prior to the adoption of the United States Constitution. He writes in the first volume of his "History of the People of the United States":

#### States Erect Barriers

"Congress had no power to regulate commerce, but each state, left to itself, ordered its own trade in its own way; and the way of one state was always different from the way of another. The commerce which Massachusetts found it to her interest to encourage, Virginia found it to hers to restrict. New York would not protect the trade in indigo and pitch. South Carolina cared nothing for the success of the fur interests. New England derived great revenues from lumber, oil, and potash; Pennsylvania from corn and grain, and were in no wise concerned as to the prosperity of the trade of their neighbors. Articles which Connecticut and New Jersey excluded from their ports by heavy tonnage duties entered New York with scarcely any other charges than light money."

The confusion resulting to domestic commerce from the trade policies of the various states was nothing compared to that which affected foreign commerce. At the time, England had imposed severe restrictions upon American commerce. For one thing, only products carried in English ships were allowed to enter the British markets. Because the Congress of the Confederation had no power to regulate

commerce, an effective policy toward the British could not be adopted. As McMaster tells us:

"When one state laid some burden on the commerce of another, a cure might be hoped for in retaliation. But with England retaliation was quite out of the question. The very first state patriotic enough to close her ports to English goods unless they came in American ships would speedily find her sister states, far from imitating her example, smothering all feelings of national pride, and holding out every inducement for English merchantmen to come to their ports. Nay, more: should any 12 states band together, settle on some scheme of retaliation, and carry it rigidly into effect, the thirteenth would be the Judas to betray them all for British gold."

#### No Uniform Currency

To add to the difficulties of carrying on commerce was the lack of a uniform currency under the Articles of Confederation. Many of the states issued paper money and the value of the currency varied from state to state. There was virtual anarchy in the monetary system of the time. As Charles A. and Mary R. Beard tell us in their "Rise of American Civilization": "The merchants had at hand no national currency uniform in value through the length and breadth of the land—nothing but a curious collection of coins uncertain in weight, shaven by clippers, debased by counterfeiters, and paper notes fluctuating as new issues streamed from the press."

What effect these restrictions and the policies of the states had upon commerce, the Beards tell us: "If a merchant surmounted the obstacles placed in his way by anarchy in the currency and confusion in tariff schedules and succeeded in building up an interstate business, he never could be sure of collections, for he was always at the mercy of local courts and juries—agencies that were seldom tender in dealing with the claims and rights of distant creditors as against the clamors of their immediate neighbors. While the Articles of Confederation lasted there was no hope of breaching such invincible barriers to the smooth and easy transaction of interstate business."

It was the recognition of the weaknesses of the Confederation that led to the demand for the establishment of a stronger central government, one which would have the power to act to bring order out of the chaos then existing. And it is recognized today that one of the causes of the tremendous economic progress made by the United States resulted in no small measure from the establishment of a large free-trade area among all the states of the Union.

## Personalities in the News

FROM the platform of the Philadelphia convention auditorium, where the Republicans will gather in June, the chairman can look over the delegations, find the Kansas group, and single out a smiling, gray-haired man of medium height who was the party standard-bearer in 1936. For Alfred M. Landon plans to attend the convention as a delegate.

As titular head of the party until the next candidate is chosen, the former Kansas governor wields considerable influence in Republican affairs. He may speak at the convention; he will surely have a prominent voice in the behind-scenes caucuses. Despite the occasional rumors that he has disagreed with Herbert Hoover, or that he has fallen out with certain other leaders, the rank-and-file delegates like him.

Ever since his overwhelming defeat in November 1936, Landon has divided his time between politics and business. For a while, he deserted public life entirely. He was busy managing the affairs of his oil properties—from his stake in a number of Kansas and Oklahoma wells, he has made a tidy fortune, both before he was governor and afterwards. He also finished the construction of a spacious home in the suburbs of Topeka. Getting the trees planted, raising some chickens, and taking short vacations to hunt, ride horseback, and fish occupied his spare time.

Those who saw him after the election reported that he took his defeat with unfailing good humor—even joked about it occasionally. Both Republican and Democratic partisans credited him with having adopted a high standard of political sportsmanship. And observers now believe that Landon's popularity and stature in the national scene have increased a great deal since 1936. On several occasions, he has publicly supported the Roosevelt administration, particularly in the field of foreign policy. That the President admired Landon was evident when the Kansan was named to be a member of the United States delegation to the 1938 Pan American Conference in Peru.

Earlier in 1938, Landon announced that he would not accept the Republican presidential nomination in 1940. Although he supports President Roosevelt on certain phases of foreign policy, Landon continues to criticize the New Deal. However, he is not a bitter opponent—it is generally agreed that he keeps to the middle ground.

At 53, Landon has a number of years ahead of him in politics. As he says himself, the chances of the Republicans wanting him for their candidate are remote. It is not improbable, however, that a Republican president might want Landon in the cabinet. Or he might seek to represent Kansas in the United States Senate. But it is certain that he will not let the speculation about these possibilities worry him. Dressed in an oil man's boots, whip-cords, leather jacket, and slouch hat, he is a familiar figure to hundreds of people.

Landon has probably reflected that his own preconvention popularity in 1936 has not been duplicated for any of the present Republican candidates, who are anxiously trying to win his support now.

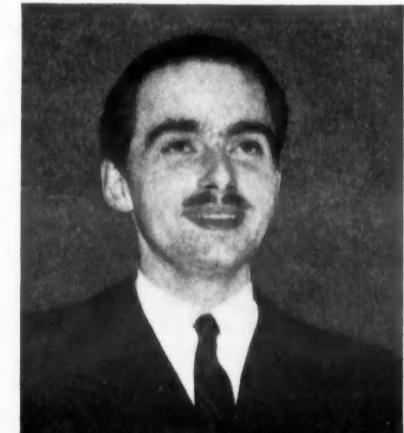


ALF LANDON

IN an effort to gain support for a restoration of Habsburg rule in central and eastern Europe, a very handsome, self-possessed young man visited the United States recently. He dressed and spoke quietly, carried himself with an unassuming if somewhat austere air, and impressed all he met as an earnest young man who might go far in life if he applied himself diligently to his task. There was very little about him to suggest possession of so formidable a title as that of the Archduke Franz Josef Robert Marie Karl Maximilian Heinrich Sixtus Xavier Felix Renatus Ludwig Gaetan Pius Ignaz von Habsburg, heir-presumptive to the nonexistent throne of nonexistent Austria, and to the vacant throne of Hungary.

Born near Vienna in 1912, "King Otto," as he is known to his followers, is one of the eight children of the unfortunate Emperor Karl who ruled Austria-Hungary for a few years after the death of the aged Emperor Franz Josef. The fact that Karl was forced to flee Austria, and failed in several attempts to regain the crown of Hungary after the World War (finally dying of shame in exile in 1922) did not deter young Otto's mother, the Empress Zita, from her ambition to reinstate her family as sovereigns in the old Habsburg lands. From his earliest years Otto was brought up to be a king. His shrewd, brilliant, and ambitious mother would not let him forget that he was a Habsburg, and destined to rule.

Schooled in the University of Louvain, in Belgium, Otto spent a year studying medicine and chemistry, and then switched to philosophy. He proved himself to be an excellent student, receiving high marks in all courses, and finally, in 1935, obtaining a Ph. D., which he added to his knowledge of German, French, English, Spanish, Basque, Croatian, Czech, and a little Finnish, as mental equipment advantageous to a prospective ruler.



ARCHDUKE OTTO

Since leaving school, Otto has traveled extensively throughout western and northern Europe, winning a great many friends, if not actually support for the cause of the Habsburg restoration. Various attempts have been made to find him a wife among the royal families of Europe, but he has not yet married. At one time it seemed likely that he might marry Princess Maria, youngest daughter of the King of Italy, but it is believed that Mussolini objected at the time, on the grounds that he did not desire a Habsburg restoration.

Does Otto desire a restoration of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire? Not in the old form, perhaps, but he would like to see a Danube Federation, ruled by the Habsburgs once more. In the *Washington Post*, Emil Lengyel has quoted him as saying:

The 50,000,000 inhabitants of the Danube Valley can live only if all the countries in it can agree to cooperate. For 650 years most of their ancestors lived under Habsburg rule, and they lived better than they do now. Unity would open the door to Stalin and Hitler. The people of the Danube Valley know that their livelihood—their very life—is linked to this solution. I have come to the United States to study our government in operation.

LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS IN LOS ANGELES GIVING A PERFORMANCE OF "CEILING ZERO"

## Student Council in Oklahoma Makes Survey of School Clubs in Nation

SEVERAL months ago, the student council of the Idabel, Oklahoma, High School made a careful study of the outside activities which the school sponsors. The council paid particular attention to the clubs and the special interest groups. While it might have concluded that the Idabel students already have ample opportunities to participate in various organizations, the student governing body decided that other schools undoubtedly have different kinds of clubs, and that the Idabel High School could profitably inquire about the student activities which exist elsewhere.

The aim of the inquiry was not to find additional clubs which could be organized in Idabel—a high school can support only a reasonable number of student groups. But the council looked for ideas which might be employed by the present clubs, as well as for suggestions about types of clubs which could replace groups that were losing ground.

To obtain the information, the council sent questionnaires to high schools in 22 states. Jeanne Stevens, an officer of the council, reports on the results of the survey in the March issue of the magazine, *Student Life*:

"Of the 36 questionnaires sent," she writes, "27 were answered. The largest high school interviewed was in Evanston, Illinois, with an enrollment of 3,500; the smallest was Whitefield, New Hampshire, with 97 students. Sidney Lanier Junior High School in Houston, Texas, had the greatest number of clubs—a total of 58."

Miss Stevens goes on to tell about some of the activities which engage the interest of the clubs. "The Aviation Club of Newton High School, Newtonville, Massachusetts, sponsors regular monthly flights for its members at the Boston airport. The Future Craftsmen of Stillwater, Oklahoma, High School make excursions to factories in Wichita, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City for the purpose of studying the latest methods of manufacturing."

"The Camera Club of Riverside High School, Riverside, California, owns a fine camera with which the pictures for the school annual are taken. The members often hear lectures by leading photographers. The Allied Youth Club of the Pittsburgh, Kansas, High School conducts a campaign against the use of alcohol. The Latin Club of the Eaton, Colorado, High School made a model Roman village. At the club's Roman banquet, the first-year class members were the slaves."

The survey also revealed that among the high schools which replied there are 15 organizations which have national affiliations. Among the most popular are the National Honor Society, Quill and Scroll, the National Forensic League, and the Future Farmers of America. The Hi-Y Clubs have an extensive membership among the boys; and the Girl Reserves are equally popular. In some cases, certain high

school clubs were branches of a state-wide organization.

Miss Stevens, of course, gives only a partial list of the clubs which the Idabel students learned about. In a number of high schools, the members of the dramatics class frequently form a club for the study of plays, and for experimenting with writing, staging, make-up, lighting, and related theater arts. Other forms of art—sculpture, painting, writing, and music—often provide a mutual interest for a group of students.

For those who have a taste for craftsmanship, the activities of clubs which engage in manual skills are often appealing. These organizations provide their members with opportunities to work with metals, with clay, with wood, and with other materials. Stamp collecting, sewing, cooking, debating, photography, hiking, nature study, and folk dancing are just a few of the other activities of clubs.

This brief listing reveals only the kinds of clubs which exist in high schools today. No one high school could support all of them—too many clubs inevitably result in a weak activity program. But nearly every high school can profitably take stock of the clubs which it now has, and then compare the list with some of the possibilities for different kinds of organizations.

As the Idabel High School found, the student council can easily carry out this survey project. In sending out a questionnaire, the council asked about the number of clubs which the answering high school supported, and about the average size, the typical activities, the eligibility requirements, and the objectives of the clubs.

### Dietetics

THE scientifically minded girl who likes to cook and to experiment with food will find dietetics a fascinating field. It is an art which requires continuous, careful study. The majority of dietitians are employed in hospitals where they decide the kind of food to serve to different patients. Sometimes they must work out an individual diet for a sick person suffering from a particular disease in which diet plays a dominant part. Hospital dietitians also purchase food supplies, supervise their preparation, and hire workers for the kitchen. Besides these duties, they must devote several hours a week to teaching student nurses at the hospital's training school.

Dietitians also secure positions in schools, orphanages, and other community institutions. Today, the effect of the diet upon the development of the child is considered extremely important, and dietitians now see to it that children get properly balanced meals. Not to be overlooked are the many relief agencies, both private and government, which hire dietitians to advise people on relief how to provide the most nourishing foods on a very limited budget.

In addition, many private concerns keep a trained dietitian on their staffs. Hotels, restaurants, and clubs employ them to plan food menus. Newspapers often engage them to arrange public cooking classes and to write daily columns on food problems. And last but not least, food manufacturers, the success of whose products depends upon the endorsements given them by health associations, have entire staffs of dietitians working constantly to improve the standard of their products.

A survey, conducted a number of years ago on the salaries paid to dietitians, revealed that the average wage of the 177 dietitians interviewed was slightly less than \$40 a week. Those who had been out of college one year made an average of \$35 a week, and those who had been out five years received around \$45. Only 13 of the 177 dietitians were earning \$60 a week or more. The hospital dietitian generally receives a lower wage than the one who works for a government or private organization. But it must be remembered that she gets her room and board in addition to her salary.

Dietetics is a good field for girls to enter, for it is not overcrowded. In May 1937, 90 per cent of the graduates from all approved dietetics schools had obtained positions. Of the 370 who were graduated in 1936, 334 were discovered to have positions—according to a report by the Institute of Women's Professional Relations. And less than five per cent of this total number were seeking employment in May 1937. It is not known exactly how many dietitians there are throughout the United States today. The American Dietetic Association, itself, has a membership of

around 3,700. But since it accepts only college graduates, this figure does not include those women who prepared for the profession through a two-year college course and hospital training.

Only a minority of the 6,000 hospitals in the United States have trained dietitians on their staffs. But as hospital standards continue to improve, more and more dietitians will be needed. It is interesting to note that those hospitals which have met with the approval of the American College of Surgery must have a graduate dietitian on their staffs. In the near future, it is very likely that a large number of hospitals will raise their standards to meet this requirement.

The work of the dietitian is generally very pleasant. However, if she is employed in a hospital, her day is long and often requires working on Sunday. The girl who trains for this career but does not take it up has not wasted her time or effort. For such knowledge is of great value in running a household.

The individual who wishes to become a dietitian should try to take a four-year college course, if possible. Experts advise against pursuing the two-year course which is offered in some colleges. The



THE DIETITIAN

high school student should acquire the proper background by studying chemistry, physics, elementary dietetics, biology, and hygiene. Later on, she will major in nutrition, home economics, and sciences.

A number of colleges throughout the United States give courses in dietetics, the names of which may be secured from the American Dietetics Association, 185 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. A good publication to read is Helen Clarke's "The Professional Training of the Hospital Dietitian"—Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, 1934.

### - Do You Keep Up With the News? -

(For answers to the following questions, turn to page 8, column 4)

1. Who said: "The duty of the government is clear. We must wage war, wage it in all domains?"
2. Since the beginning of the Civilian Conservation Corps, more than (a) 20,000 (b) 80,000 (c) 45,000 (d) 10,000 boys have been taught to read and write while in camp.
3. How far is Bethlehem from Jerusalem?
4. The president of Panama is (a) Augusto S. Boyd (b) Robert M. Ortiz (c) Getulio Vargas (d) Laredo Bru.
5. Any American citizen, who is 18 years of age or older, able bodied, unemployed, and currently certified as in need, is eligible for employment by the
6. Name the thin old man in the white cotton dhoti who accepted the leadership of India's current drive for freedom from British rule.
7. Attorney General Robert H. Jackson announced the other day that the Federal Bureau of Investigation would no longer employ the method of collecting evidence known as (a) lobbying (b) logrolling (c) filibustering (d) wire tapping.
8. What government recently demanded the recall of the Soviet ambassador, Jacob Suritz?
9. The principal product of Puerto Rico is
10. Syria was a part of what country before the World War? Is she a French mandate now?
11. Three European countries lost their independence during the period of the recent Daladier cabinet, from April 1938 to March 1940. They are
12. The German White Papers, which were reported to have been seized from the Foreign Office archives of conquered Poland by the Nazi government, were supposed to reveal the beliefs of two American ambassadors abroad. Who are they? The United States government branded the documents as
13. The distinguished conductor, Arturo Toscanini, has reported the finding of a lost overture to a famous opera written by Giuseppe Verdi. This opera, which has an Egyptian setting and was first performed at Cairo in 1871, is
14. What three American writers have received the Nobel Prize for Literature?
15. George Tatarescu, who announced that his country would be put on rations, is prime minister of
16. Nevada is a Spanish word meaning (a) mountainous (b) desert (c) snowclad (d) rocky.
17. What topic, now under controversy, prompted Mrs. Roosevelt to remark: "Women used to hate to tell their ages. I don't think they mind any more"?
18. Burton K. Wheeler is senator from (a) Wyoming (b) Idaho (c) Colorado (d) Montana.
19. The dome of what 300-year-old building will soon be hidden by scaffolding in an effort to check the decaying reported to the government by an American tourist? This beautiful tomb, built by an emperor for his favorite wife, is located at
20. The American automobile company that announced that it would pay separation allowances to employees laid off for reasons beyond their control is (a) Chrysler (b) Ford (c) General Motors (d) Studebaker.



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# Interstate Trade Barriers

(Concluded from page 1)

trade between the states. It develops that public health and sanitation measures may be so designed as to restrict trade across state lines. The same may be said of certain tax laws, of motor truck regulation, of quarantines, of grading, labeling, and packaging laws, and of state-financed advertising of farm products. However worthy the purpose of most of these laws and regulations, in many cases they have been so drawn and administered as to cause large and unnecessary economic losses to the whole community.

## Since the Depression

While one finds instances of such restrictions to interstate trade throughout American history, they have multiplied manyfold since the beginning of the depression. Their purpose has been to help the workers and industries of the individual states. With business slack and unemployment mounting, it was felt that the situation could be remedied by keeping as much of the home market as possible to local producers. The dairy states, for example, clamped down a stamp on oleomargarine in order to prevent competition with locally produced butter. Certain states placed a heavy tax upon wine produced outside the state. One particularly prevalent form of barrier is the restrictions which are placed upon trucks entering various states. The taxes, size and load limitations, and other requirements are so complicated as to make it extremely difficult for trucks to cross state lines.

An example of restrictions on trucks may be seen in the case of Kansas. If you drive a truck into Kansas, for example, you will probably be stopped near the state line at a "port of entry." A state inspector



BERNARDIN IN MCKEESEY (PA.) DAILY NEWS

will want to know where you are going and you will have to pay a "ton-mile" tax on your truck—so much for every mile you intend to travel in the state. Kansas set up the ports of entry in 1933, to make sure that the state tax was paid on all gasoline brought into the state.

Other states have adopted this convenient method of checking on incoming cars and trucks. At present, 11 states have ports of entry along their borders. In some of these states, motorists must pay a tax on the gasoline in their tanks; in others, they must pay taxes on certain articles they are carrying.

## Network of Restrictions

If you were to start out to drive a truck across the country, you would run into all sorts of regulations and restrictions. Your truck might be too heavy in Tennessee, too long in Oklahoma, too tall in Idaho. There is no uniform set of rules concerning the size and equipment of trucks; the weight limits run all the way from 18,000 pounds to 120,000 pounds, while the length limits vary from 30 feet to 85 feet. Naturally, this makes it very difficult for truckers to do business in more than one state. The TNEC was told, for example, that a truck traveling from Alabama to South Carolina would have to pay license fees amounting

to more than \$1,000 to the three states it would enter.

Taxes on oleomargarine and the imposition of licenses upon those who sell it were the first cases of the use of the state's taxing power for the purpose of erecting tariff barriers. Toward the end of the last century, certain dairy states imposed these taxes. The excuse given was that the tax was essential in order to protect consumers against adulteration of butter with margarine and against the substitution of margarine for butter. Without pure food and drug laws, these restrictions might have been necessary, but now that there is such protection, the barrier is no longer necessary and really serves the purpose of protecting the local dairy interests against competition.

In the state of Wisconsin, for example, a 15 cent tax is imposed on margarine. The purpose of the tax is to make margarine so expensive that the people will not buy it but will use the butter manufactured in the state. Other states have followed Wisconsin's example to protect their dairy interests.

Naturally, restrictions of this kind lead to retaliation, similar to the tariff wars which develop among nations. Southern states, for example, are resentful of the taxes on margarine because they produce the cottonseed oil and peanut oil from which the margarine is made. Many of them have passed laws which make it difficult for Wisconsin to sell its cheese and beer within their borders.

## California and Florida

California and Florida are great rivals in the citrus fruit business. As long ago as 1915, Florida passed a law quarantining citrus fruits grown in California, on the ground that California fruit had a disease called brown rot, which might be spread to Florida orchards. As a matter of fact, California fruit has been free of brown rot for a long time, but the quarantine stands because Florida has found it an excellent method of eliminating competition from California.

California, on the other hand, has the same sort of quarantine regulation against citrus fruits from other states, imposed to keep out lemon disease and citrus canker. Although Florida fruit has neither of these diseases, the quarantine keeps Florida oranges, lemons, and grapefruit out of California markets.

A number of states have imposed restrictions upon eggs and milk. Several states have laws which declare that eggs laid in other states cannot be sold as "fresh" eggs—even though they were brought from a farm just across the border and sold within an hour after they were laid. One state requires that all milk shipped in from other states shall be colored red, so that its citizens may know that they are drinking out-of-state milk. The coloring material is harmless, but not many people like to drink red milk, and they are encouraged to buy milk which is produced in their own state.

## Short-Sighted Policy

Hundreds of similar examples could be cited. Some of the restrictions are legitimate, designed to protect the public health of the state's inhabitants. But most of them are adopted for the sole purpose of keeping "foreign" products out of the states imposing the restrictions. As *Collier's* magazine has put it: "Many of these state tariffs were the indirect result of previously enacted sales taxes. . . . The cycle is vicious. One state or city imposes a tax to meet its necessities and another community adopts a new tax in retaliation. Or the same town passes another law to catch those supposed to be evading the first law. . . . This epidemic of local and state tariffs and trade barriers, cunningly devised to escape the plain prohibition of the Constitution, is the American counterpart of the nationalism that swept through Europe after the World War. Apparently there is no rational end to such divisive tendencies except mutual losses and a common lowering of the standard of living."

Few would deny that these barriers to interstate commerce are short-sighted and that, if continued, they will undermine the prosperity of the states which impose them. As John T. Flynn has written in *Collier's*: "Every state in the Union shelters hosts of industries and plants and farms that find their markets all over the country; while, in turn, all the 48 states send their products into that one. It is this vast, untrammelled, free market that has been one of the explanations of the amazing growth of this country, while the European continent has been one series of hampering, restricting, tax-eating, and trade-killing frontiers."

What, if anything, can be done to solve this problem? Attacks are already being made along a number of fronts. Last spring, a number of states sent delegates to a conference in Chicago where the problem of state trade laws was discussed. The delegates agreed to work against any new laws which would restrain trade, and to work for the repeal of old laws and practices which are harmful.

There are signs that this conference has already had some good results. Oklahoma, for example, has done away with its ports of entry, and Texas has decided not to set up any, as it had planned. Indiana, Michigan, and Missouri settled a dispute over laws concerning the manufacture and sale of beer and wine. New Mexico has repealed a law taxing out-of-state truckers. Only a few weeks ago, representatives of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin met in Chicago to deal with the problem of trade barriers.

Meanwhile, it is hoped that the investigation of the whole problem made by the Temporary National Economic Committee will not only uncover the facts about trade barriers among the states but will also point to a solution. It is generally felt that a solution can be reached through cooperation among the states affected. If the states fail to meet the problem, however, the federal government may step in and try to tear down the barriers, for it is recognized that unless the problem is solved, the future prosperity of the country will be endangered.



ACME  
It is impossible for a truck to cross state lines in many parts of the United States, without being stopped for inspection of one kind or another.

## Questions and References

1. What provision does the Constitution make with respect to interstate commerce?
2. What steps have the dairy states taken to keep out oleomargarine?
3. How do regulations with respect to trucks interfere with interstate commerce? Cite some of these regulations.
4. Why is it a short-sighted policy for a state to place restrictions upon the products of other states?
5. How is the Temporary National Economic Committee helping to solve this problem?

REFERENCES: (a) Our Economic Civil War, by R. Finney. *American Mercury*, March 1940, pp. 273-279. (b) Balkanizing America, by B. Bolles. *Current History*, July 1939, pp. 16-19. (c) Our Interstate Embargoes. *The New Republic*, December 6, 1939, pp. 183-184. (d) War Between the States; Special Report. *Business Week*, July 15, 1939, pp. 31-37.

## Answer Keys

### Do You Keep Up With the News?

1. French Premier Paul Reynaud; 2. (b); 3. five miles; 4. (a); 5. Work Projects Administration; 6. Mohandas K. Gandhi; 7. (d); 8. France; 9. sugar; 10. Turkey. No, an independent autonomous republic since 1936; 11. Czechoslovakia, Albania, and Poland; 12. William C. Bullitt and Joseph P. Kennedy. Propaganda; 13. "Aids"; 14. Sinclair Lewis, Eugene O'Neill, and Pearl Buck; 15. Rumania; 16. (c); 17. "personal" questions in the 1940 census; 18. (d); 19. Taj Mahal, Agra, India; 20. (c).

## Smiles

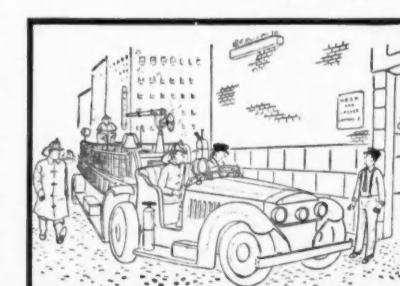
Auto Salesman: "Jones tried to make me believe that he's driven his car for five years and never paid a cent for repairs. Can you believe that?"

Mechanic: "I'll say I do—I made the repairs." —WALL STREET JOURNAL

"I understand your wife is a finished singer," said one man to another.

"No, not yet," replied the other, "but the neighbors almost got her last night." —TRU-AGE

Man (falling through the air from an airplane): "Say, that wasn't the washroom after all!" —NEAL O'HARA



"We got there too late—all the hydrants were taken." —SALO IN COLLIERS

Wife: "There's an old-clothes man at the door."

Husband: "Tell him I've got all I need." —JUDGE

"Mom, what becomes of an automobile when it gets too old to run any more?"

"Why, somebody sells it to your father, dear." —Florida TIMES-UNION

"It is extremely difficult to distinguish between weeds and young plants," writes a garden authority. Our neighbors' hens seem to manage it quite easily. —HUMORIST

A boy was about to pay his admission to the movies in the afternoon. The box-office attendant asked, "Why aren't you at school?"

"Oh, it's all right," replied the boy, "I've got measles." —OUTSPAN

"You can't believe everything you hear." "No, but you can repeat it." —ANSWERS

"Why, when I was 20 I made up my mind to get rich."

"But you never became rich."

"No, I decided it was a lot easier to change my mind." —Boston TRANSCRIPT

Wife (in back seat): "Don't drive so fast, George."

George: "Why not?"

Wife: "That policeman on a motorcycle behind us can't get by." —CAPPER'S WEEKLY